



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 7, 2006  
Week Ending: August 6, 2006  
CWP WA-CW3206

## Yields Affected by Heat Wave

### Field Crops

Lentils and sweet corn harvest began while wheat, barley and potato harvesting continued. Average yields from harvested wheat were reported, while the potato and pea yields were lower than originally thought due to the July heat wave.

### Livestock

Range and Pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 6% poor, 39% fair and 51% good. Livestock were gaining weight at a fair pace.

### Fruit and Vegetables

Spinach seed continued to be windrowed and cucumber harvest was underway. The raspberry and blackberry harvest was almost finished while the blueberry harvest continued.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	22	35	43	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	39	39	0
Subsoil	4	30	66	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	41	45	0
Irrigation Water	1	4	95	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	7	89	0
Hay & Roughage	1	23	73	3

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	28	9	40	30
Winter Wheat Harvested	55	30	55	50
Barley Harvested	22	6	34	25
Potatoes Harvested	28	20	44	25
Corn Silked	91	76	87	82
Corn Doughed	18	12	23	24
Corn Dented	8	6	14	12
Dry Peas Harvested	61	37	71	40
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	93	91	91	94
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	19	8	37	36

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	4	24	64	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	13	74	13
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	13	46	38	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	18	78	4
Barley Dryland	0	12	47	39	2
Barley Irrigated	0	0	17	72	11
Potatoes	0	1	27	67	5
Corn	0	0	17	83	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	34	65	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clallam/Jefferson:** Temperatures and crops were pretty much the same as last week.

**Clark:** Hot weather!

**Grays Harbor:** Several weeks with no measurable precipitation has resulted in drought conditions throughout the county. Sweet corn continued to do well where irrigation was available. Truck gardeners reported excellent sales of vegetables and blueberries. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent yields and fruit quality due to the warm temperatures. Livestock producers continued making haylage. Home gardeners were feasting on warm season vegetable crops.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** July ended up being one of the driest on record and included a brief record setting heat wave. In spite of the warm daytime temperatures, evening temperatures were cooler than normal except during the heat wave. Non-irrigated crops will be affected the most by the lack of precipitation.

**Mason:** Cool nights and warm days with daytime temperatures in the high 80s, has brought back the normal western Washington summer weather. The first sweet corn of the season was being harvested and sold. Blueberries were filling the buckets of U-Pick customers. Market farmers were seeding and transplanting winter crops. Pumpkin patches were beginning to see green pumpkins start to size up. Just one summer rain would be a pleasant sight to all producers, especially those with hayfields and pastures in need of irrigation.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** There was no measurable precipitation during the week. Temperatures were cooler earlier in the week, but rose to the mid-80s by Saturday. Pastures and gardens were irrigated all week.

**Pierce/King:** Crop conditions remained good for the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged in the mid-70s with no measurable precipitation. Many farmers applied supplemental irrigation to their crops. The green pea harvest had an above average yield and was coming to an end. The raspberry and blueberry harvest was still underway. The majority of the grass seed in the Skagit Valley has been harvested. To date the harvest has been average. Spinach seed was being windrowed, which means the crop was being cut and placed into rows so it can be dried in the sun and then harvested in 10-14 days. Potatoes were being mowed, and harvest could begin as early as this week. The wheat harvest was underway, though there have been complaints of low yields and some bumper crops that were planted on heavier ground. The cucumber harvest was also underway, which indicates we are at the peak of summer. Fall is just around the corner.

**Snohomish/King:** Daytime temperatures were in the 70s and night time temperatures were in the 40s and 50s. Some precipitation was received over the weekend. All crops continued to be on schedule without much change.

**Thurston:** Another week with no rain continued to exacerbate drought conditions throughout the county. The potential for wild fires was very high due to dry hayfields and meadows. Several grass fires occurred the previous week—fortunately there was no damage to farm structures. Christmas tree growers were shearing Douglas fir and top working Noble fir. Growers reported early sales of Christmas trees. Turfgrass growers focused on keeping fields irrigated. Livestock producers continued making haylage. Dairywomen were applying liquid manure to forage fields. Home gardeners were harvesting ripe tomatoes, onions, potatoes, and cucumbers.

**Whatcom:** The temperature has been in the 70s to low 80s, with some wind and no rain. Raspberry harvest was down to only a few producers, with most of them finishing up this week or within a few days. Blueberry harvest began. Corn producers wished for some rain since the corn was tasseled. Irrigation was going full force. Producers were cutting grass and either baling or chopping.

## Central

**Benton:** Harvest continued throughout the county. Weather conditions continued to be above 80 degrees. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was underway.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Winter wheat harvest continued with average yields. Harvest was behind normal. Some producers reported kernels were shrunken due to the above average temperatures experienced in early May. Soft fruit harvest continued. Temperatures have cooled down.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were back to more normal conditions. It was a solid growing degree week with good conditions for both dryland and irrigated wheat harvest. The third cutting of hay was in full swing at the southern end of the county and progressing to the northern areas. Sweet corn harvest was also in full swing. No precipitation was received during the week. Days were generally calm with little wind.

**Grant:** Apricot and peach harvest was underway.

**Grant (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The third cutting of alfalfa was in full swing. Cherry harvest was complete. Fresh pea harvest was also complete. Dry pea harvest was underway. Dryland wheat harvest continued with above average yields. Irrigated wheat harvest was just beginning. Sweet corn harvest continued.

**Klickitat:** Hot days in the 90s and cool nights in the 50s was the norm for the week. No rain was received.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Winter wheat harvest progressed. Soft fruit harvest continued. Temperatures have cooled down.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from nine degrees below normal to four degrees above normal with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter and spring cereal harvest neared completion, with yield reports being average to just above average. Overall, producers were hoping for greater yields, but multiple weeks of dry conditions in April and May and very hot and freezing conditions in May were more yield-limiting than initially predicted. Initial grain quality reports have been positive.

**Asotin:** Wheat harvest progressed on schedule with warm, dry weather. Many producers reported average to slightly above average yields.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Hot, dry weather allowed harvest to continue uninterrupted. There were reports of springs and small streams drying up due to the dry conditions.

**Garfield:** As windy hot weather continued, grain at higher elevations was pinched. Mostly DNS (Dark Northern Spring), but some Alpowa SWS (Soft White Spring) was coming in. No fires so far. . .

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat harvest was in full swing throughout the county, and spring cereal harvest began in the southern end of the county.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest continued smoothly.

**Lincoln (3<sup>rd</sup> Report):** Hot, dry weather continued with some areas beginning to finish up harvest, while others were just getting started.

**Pend Orielle:** The high was 97 degrees and the low was 30 degrees with no precipitation during the week. Dry conditions caused pastures to dry up, with little or no green pastures without irrigation. Livestock were gaining weight at a fair pace. Hogs were feeding in the morning and evening hours. Poultry were molting and laying irregularly due to the heat. Most of the hay has

been cut, with large farms still in the process of cutting—which is normal.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Grain harvest began for most producers in Spokane County. Yield reports indicated the winter wheat crops were average to a little bit disappointing. Growers indicated the extra hot week in May did more damage than was originally thought. Some lentils and peas were harvested. Yields were below average due to the warm weather and pounding rains received after seeding the legume crops. Pasture conditions deteriorated more after the extended hot weather. Thankfully, temperatures have moderated and were more normal for this time of year. Cherry harvest was complete. Apricots and peaches were ready to pick at Green Bluff.

**Stevens:** Warm temperatures and clear skies allowed hay producers to work on the second cutting. Grain producers took advantage of nearly perfect harvest conditions. A few livestock producers had to move cattle due to dry pastures.

**Walla Walla:** Harvest proceeded well. Cooler temperatures were a welcome change to all. Yields seemed to be average for the most part. Northern areas of the county reported below average yields. Late frosts caused more damage than originally thought.

**Whitman:** Harvest continued to progress. Yields were average with a mixture of reports on winter wheat, but mainly in the area of average yields and test weights. Minimal spring crops were cut, but it was anticipated that yields will be below average because of late spring seeding and the heat in May and July. There was a lot of stubble out west as harvest came to a close in the western third of the county. Swathing lentils began in the eastern third of the county, with winter wheat and peas being harvested in the central third.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

August 7, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	46	78	62	-2	83	-8	15	-13	0.00	-0.28	0	31.97	-3.04	91	160
Everett	51	78	63	-2	92	-6	22	-6	0.01	-0.27	1	30.61	-4.70	87	168
Hoquiam	49	69	60	-2	69	-8	2	-12	0.00	-0.25	0	69.95	3.32	105	188
Kelso	48	86	64	-2	103	-2	33	-2	0.00	-0.24	0	42.56	-2.72	94	155
Olympia	43	88	62	-3	85	-13	16	-13	0.00	-0.21	0	52.17	2.69	105	153
Sea-Tac	53	86	66	0	116	4	46	3	0.00	-0.20	0	36.41	0.19	101	154
Shelton	45	87	64	-3	98	-14	29	-13	0.00	-0.21	0	68.15	4.33	107	160
Tacoma	46	86	62	-4	88	-17	18	-21	0.00	-0.21	0	38.57	-0.57	99	143
Vancouver	48	90	67	2	121	11	51	9	0.00	-0.21	0	41.95	1.69	104	150
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	47	96	69	0	139	6	69	6	0.00	-0.07	0	12.04	3.44	140	90
Stampede Pass	44	80	59	3	63	14	14	7	0.12	-0.21	1	68.89	-10.23	87	176
Wenatchee	52	93	72	-3	157	-14	87	-12	0.00	-0.07	0	7.21	-0.73	91	67
Yakima AP	43	94	68	-3	130	-16	60	-16	0.00	-0.07	0	9.70	2.07	127	77
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	40	89	64	-4	99	-25	31	-25	0.00	-0.21	0	20.10	0.15	101	112
Deer Park	32	89	60	-11	70	-70	10	-60	0.00	-0.14	0	28.06	10.20	157	127
Spokane AP	45	89	67	-5	120	-20	50	-20	0.00	-0.14	0	19.66	3.77	124	117
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	50	92	70	-7	141	-41	71	-41	0.00	-0.07	0	9.72	2.70	138	75
Moses Lake	48	93	68	-8	129	-53	59	-53	0.00	-0.07	0	12.04	5.02	172	91
Quincy	49	88	69	-4	136	-18	66	-18	0.00	-0.07	0	11.71	4.20	156	89
Ritzville	42	87	65	-6	105	-35	37	-33	0.00	-0.07	0	15.24	4.30	139	97
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	53	99	74	-6	168	-35	98	-35	0.00	-0.07	0	6.12	-0.08	99	49
Pasco	46	96	69	-8	134	-46	64	-45	0.00	-0.07	0	9.64	2.47	134	77
Pullman	39	91	62	-6	85	-34	19	-30	0.00	-0.18	0	13.49	-6.85	66	109
Whitman Miss.	44	93	66	-6	116	-38	46	-38	0.00	-0.14	0	17.14	3.91	130	119
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	84	62	-9	89	-58	20	-57	0.00	-0.24	0	10.86	-13.99	44	88
Lewiston ID	52	93	72	-4	154	-24	84	-21	0.00	-0.14	0	11.72	-0.05	100	94

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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